

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ECRP PFOR TD US

SUBJECT: EMBASSY COMMENTS ON PRE-IG REVIEW OF FY 1976-77

CASP FOR TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

REF: STATE 126503

FOLLOWING KEYED TO PARA 2 REFTEL:

A. CONCUR.

B. CONCUR.

C. RATHER THAN UTILIZING FOOTNOTE, SUGGEST AMENDING THIRD SENTENCE TO BEGIN AS FOLLOWS: "ALTHOUGH THE PRIME MINISTER HAS NOT CEASED HIS STRONG PUBLIC CRITICISM OF MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS, THE GOTT IS NOW SERIOUSLY"

D. CONCUR.

E. CONCUR WITH CHANGES, BUT SUGGEST FORMER SECOND SENTENCE (NEW FIRST SENTENCE) TO READ "AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, TRINIDAD'S HIGH PER CAPITA INCOME MAKES IT AN ATTRACTIVE MARKET, AND ITS"

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F. EMBASSY AGREES THAT PARAGRAPH 4 ON PAGE 11 DOES NOT RELATE DIRECTLY

TO THE ISSUE OF OPEN CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION AND WOULD BE MORE APPROPRIATE AS A NEW SECOND PARAGRAPH IN THE SECTION ON POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT ON PAGE 16.

PURPOSE OF PARAGRAPH THREE IS TO NOTE THE ACTUAL OPPORTUNITIES WHICH COULD ARISE FOR MORE OPEN COMMUNICATION WITH GOTT IF THERE SHOULD BE A CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT AS A RESULT OF FORTHCOMING NATIONAL ELECTIONS. PARAGRAPH IS THUS RELEVANT AND WE BELIEVE SHOULD STAND AS IS. IT GIVES THE BACKGROUND FOR THE FIRST OPPORTUNITY LISTED ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE AND TO OBJECTIVE 3, ALL OF WHICH ARE DIRECTLY RELATED TO OPEN CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION.

G. EMBASSY DOES NOT RPT NOT CONCUR WITH PROPOSED CHANGES. STATEMENT OPPOSING USG FUNDING OF CAPITAL EXPENDITURE FOR UWI AND CARDI WAS STRONGLY-HELD JUDGMENT OF THE AMBASSADOR AT TIME OF CASP DRAFTING, AND REMAINED HIS VIEW AT TIME OF HIS DEPARTURE IN LATE MAY. SINCE CASP CLEARLY IDENTIFIES THIS STATEMENT AS EMBASSY VIEWPOINT, WE DO NOT BELIEVE IT SHOULD POSE PROBLEMS FOR AID/W. WE OBJECT, MOREOVER, TO A DRAFTING CHANGE WHICH ALLEGES AN AGREEMENT WHICH DOES NOT EXIST.

SINCE THE PROPOSED UWI LOAN HAS LITTLE RELEVANCE TO THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO PER SE, AND SINCE LATTER IS THE ISSUE BEING ADDRESSED IN THIS SECTION OF CASP, WE DO NOT CONSIDER IT NECESSARY TO ISLOATE THIS DIFFERENCE OF OPINION AS A MAJOR ISSUE FOR ACTUAL IG RESOLUTION. IT PROBABLY LIES MORE APPROPRIATELY IN THE INTER-AGENCY LOAN REVIEW PROCESS RATHER THAN THE CASP FRAMEWORK AT THIS TIME.

WHILE PREFERRING RETENTION OF EMBASSY'S VIEWS ON THIS SUBJECT IN THE CASP, WE WOULD ACCEPT AS LESS DESIRABLE ALTERNATIVE SIMPLE DELETION OF FINAL SENTENCE OF PARAGRAPH TWO ON PAGE 18 AS PREFERABLE TO LANGUAGE IN REFTEL WHICH WOULD MISSTATE EMBASSY VIEWS.

H. ONLY REASON "U.S. NATIONAL DEFENSE" WAS INCLUDED IN CASP EVALUATION SECTION IS BECAUSE IT WAS LISTED AS AN INTEREST IN LAST YEAR'S CASP, WHICH IN TURN WAS LARGELY IN ORDER TO HIGHLIGHT ONE OF TWO MAJOR ISSUES IN LAST YEAR'S CASP, E.G., "CONTINUED ASSESSIBILITY TO PETROLEUM PRODUCTS REFINED IN TRINIDAD FOR U.S.

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NAVY USE." SUBSEQUENTLY, THE IG DECISION MEMORANDUM CONCLUDED THAT RAISING THIS ISSUE "HAD BEEN USEFUL AND HAD SERVED THE INTENDED PURPOSE," AND THAT NO FURTHER ACTION WAS NEEDED. HOWEVER, FOLLOWING PARAGRAPH MIGHT USEFULLY BE INCLUDED AS NEW SECTION UNDER OTHER INTERESTS AT BOTTOM OF PAGE 18 AND ENTITLED "US NATIONAL DEFENSE":

"TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO OCCUPIES A RELATIVELY MINOR POSITION IN US

GLOBAL AND HEMISPHERIC DEFENSES. THE EXPIRATION IN DECEMBER 1977 OF
US RIGHTS UNDER THE DEFENSE AREAS AGREEMENT WILL AFFECT THE CONTINUED
OPERATION OF THE ONLY REMAINING US FACILITY IN TRINIDAD, THE OMEGA
NAVIGATIONAL STATION. PRESENT U.S. GOVERNMENT PLANS ARE TO CLOSE
OMEGA TRINIDAD WHEN THE DEFENSE AREAS AGREEMENT EXPIRES, BUT
IF IT IS SUBSEQUENTLY DETERMINED TO SEEK CONTINUATION OF THE
STATION'S OPERATION BEYOND 1977, THE NEGOTIATION OF A NEW AGREEMENT
WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAO WILL BE REQUIRED."
RICH

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